

6/23/10

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Media Advisory --

Washtenaw County Breakfast on the Farm takes place June 26

What: Breakfast on the Farm is a free event geared to families who have little to no experience with agriculture and farming. Attendees will visit a family-owned dairy farm, enjoy a free pancake breakfast featuring a new breakfast pizza from Domino's and other Michigan-grown food items, and have an opportunity to take a self-guided tour of the farm. Attendees will be able to ask local farmers questions about farming and caring for animals, visit educational stations and enjoy a variety of activities, including taking a tractor-drawn wagon ride, climbing aboard farm equipment and petting baby calves.

The Washtenaw County Breakfast on the Farm will be hosted by the 2010 Michigan State University Dairy Farmers of the Year, Earl and Diane Horning, and Jeff and Lynda Horning.

Free Tickets are required to eat breakfast but are not needed to take advantage of the tour.

Why: Breakfast on the Farm was created in 2009 to help people learn about modern-day farming. Since most people don't know all the steps that go into producing the food they eat, they can be confused or misguided by the conflicting information appearing on the Internet, circulated in media and disseminated by special interest groups.

Breakfast on the Farm offers people a chance to come face to face with local farm families and ask questions about food production — all in a fun and comfortable setting.

Dairy farmers are role models for what it means to be stewards of the land and their animals. Agriculture, with family-owned dairies leading the way, adds more than \$71 billion annually to the Michigan economy. Washtenaw County farmers want consumers throughout the state to see firsthand how they take care of their animals and learn what is involved with producing the food consumers buy at the grocery store or local farmers market.

When: The Washtenaw County event will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, June 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Breakfast will be served from 9 a.m. to noon.

Where: The Washtenaw County Breakfast on the Farm is being hosted by Earl and Diane

Horning and their family. This six-generation family dairy operation started in 1877 and was recently named the 2010 MSU Dairy Farmer of the Year.

The Horning Dairy is located at 11855 E. Pleasant Lake Road, Manchester, Mich.

For directions, visit www.breakfastonthefarm.com.

Who:

- The 2010 Breakfast on the Farm is organized by a grassroots group of local farmers, agriculture industry representatives and farming organizations.
- The 2010 Breakfast on the Farm program is made possible by the following statewide sponsoring partners: Dairy Farmers of America, Dairyland Seed, Greenstone Farm Credit Services, the Michigan Milk Producers Association, Pioneer and the United Dairy Industry of Michigan.
- More than 1,500 people attended the Clinton County Breakfast on the Farm event in 2009. A similar number is expected to attend this year's event in Washtenaw County.

Contact:

- For media assistance prior to the event, contact Eileen Gianiodis, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Communications at Michigan State University, at 517-432-1555, ext. 177.
- For general information, visit www.breakfastonthefarm.com.
- For media assistance the day of the event, contact Sara Long at 989-225-1368.

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